



ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Protecting NASA's Technology in a High Threat Environment

NASA walks a fine line each day, on one side achieving the best in space endeavors by sharing information with international colleagues, while on the other abiding by federal law and agency regulations to protect information from unauthorized disclosure. Deciding which information should or shouldn't be shared is a daunting task. The implementation of an innovative Technology Protection Program is helping to clear the muddled waters in a more efficient and effective manner. By identifying and protecting a small-subset of our mission critical information that enhances our national economic, military, and technological advantages, preserves our taxpayer investment in advanced research and development, and promotes the open exchange of a vast amount of technical information, NASA's technology protection initiative is a huge step in helping the NASA family "walk the line" between the need to share while also safeguarding carefully selected information. Program security requirements are not new to NASA. The DoD protection program was previously codified almost verbatim in NASA security directives. While "on the books", the program wasn't implemented because it did not "fit" within the agency charter or culture. DoD was weapon system centric for example, and NASA doesn't develop weapon systems, so the adoption of a DoD approach never saw true implementation within NASA. NASA's new technology protection initiative involves tailoring the "best of breed" approaches from multiple federal agencies, applying lean six sigma tools, and integrating it into continuous risk management and systems engineering models in order to protect our investments at reasonable and acceptable cost.

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Terry E. Odum has served as the Chairman, Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD) Technology Protection Working Group (TPWG) since May 2006. Modeled after the DoD protection program and tailored to NASA, the TPWG was chartered to implement a systematic process for identifying mission critical technologies, validating threats directed at NASA systems and technologies, and resolving program protection issues across all ESMD programs/projects. Mr. Odum is a Senior Security Specialist at Marshall Space Flight Center with over 32 years of combined military, industry, and government experience in protecting critical U.S. weapons and space systems. He previously served over five years as the Deputy Manager, Protective Services Office at Marshall prior to accepting his current assignment. Mr. Odum has a Master's degree in Justice and Public Safety from Auburn University at Montgomery and is Board Certified in Security Management, holding the professional designation of Certified Protection Professional (CPP).



PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

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Ryan Averbeck is the Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) Project Manager for the NASA Technology Protection initiative. He has a 16 year government background conducting and supervising offensive and defensive intelligence and security operations. His training and practical application includes cyber collection and exploitation, security controls circumvention, vulnerability management, and critical infrastructure protection. Mr. Averbeck has developed and implemented security and protection strategies for billion dollar research and development activities, projects, facilities, and systems. His project management experience centered on recommending and implementing cost effective security controls in the most efficient and timely manner while focusing on meeting project cost, performance, and schedule objectives. Mr. Averbeck is currently completing his Ph.D dissertation in computer and information security at North Central University.